



SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers about learning in the classroom and how to support that learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Learning is particularly important in Pre-K because at this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and a willingness to learn and be taught. Children in Pre-K are developmentally able to begin learning about aspects of citizenship, economics, geography and history. They enjoy discussing what they are learning about social studies at home, in their community and at school.

This information is a snapshot of learning in Pre-K social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Recognize the importance of rules and responsibilities.
- Identify the United States flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell as symbols of our country.
- Learn the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Explain how various members of the community impact the child's life.
- Understand and be able to explain that a map is a drawing of a place and the globe is a model of Earth.
- Describe family customs and traditions.

What to do at home:

- Discuss people your child might see in the community and what they do. Examples could include firemen, members of the military, police officers, teachers, principals and others who work in schools.
- Discuss family traditions.
- Cut something round, for example an orange peel, that can be made flat. Ask your child to examine what happens as the shape is changed and discuss the changes.
- Describe symbols that represent companies or teams, like the yellow "M" for McDonald's.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- When you look around, do you see things that are alike or different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to do?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What fruit would you like to eat for lunch?
- Do you think you will need a jacket today?
- What was the best part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

It is important to give young children the opportunity to explore books. As you sit down to read together, allow your child to flip through the pages and discuss what he or she sees. Use the following questions as a guide as you talk about the books you are reading together.

BEFORE READING

- What do you see on the cover?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Who is in the book?
- What has happened so far?

AFTER READING

- Did you like reading this book? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

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KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Kindergarten is when children begin to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a structured learning environment. Families play an important role in that growth as they model positive learning behaviors and become involved in school activities.

Through age-appropriate activities focused on citizenship, economics, geography and history, kindergartners begin to understand the idea of fairness and learn how to speak up for themselves and others.

This information is a snapshot of learning in kindergarten social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Recognize why rules and responsibilities are important.
- Identify the United States flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell as symbols of our country.
- Learn the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Describe the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter that are common to all people.
- Locate the United States on a world map and a globe.
- Recognize holidays that honor people and events of the past.

What to do at home:

- Point out recognizable symbols, such as the swoosh for Nike or Rumble for the Oklahoma City Thunder. Compare them to the way we see the Statue of Liberty and associate it the United States.
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities that go along with being a member of a family.
- Point to Oklahoma on a map of the United States.
- Discuss ways people earn money.



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Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What do you wonder about?
- What patterns do you see when you look outside?
- What book do you want to read today?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is your favorite food and why?
- What rule have you followed today?
- What do community helpers do for people?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Kindergartners are developing beginning reading skills and an enjoyment of reading. Make time to explore books, magazines and other types of print with them and encourage conversations as you read together. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What does this book remind you of?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book and why?

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FIRST GRADE

What to expect:

In first grade, children become more independent as their reading skills improve and they are able to focus for longer periods of time. At this stage, they are ready to learn about citizenship, economics, geography and history. They are interested in everyday tasks like cooking and taking photos and in dressing up in career-related uniforms or like people in their community and from history. First-graders ask many "what if?" questions but also need structured activities.

This information is a snapshot of learning in first-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify the main purpose of government and its rules and laws, including the idea of consequences when a law or rule is broken.
- Explain the need for money, how money is earned, how money and credit are used to meet needs and wants and the costs and benefits of spending and saving.
- Compare the physical features of urban and rural communities and identify the directions north, south, east and west.
- Understand the importance of people and places from history.
- Begin to understand the sequencing of events in time order.

What to do at home:

- Read a story with your child and have him or her retell or act out the story using the correct sequence of events.
- Use the directions east, west, north and south in familiar places. For example: "Turn west or go to the south entrance."
- Discuss family rules and consequences.
- Start a savings account and monitor increases or decreases in the account.
- Locate the seven continents and five oceans on a map or globe.
- Ask your child to describe features of urban and rural areas when in those locations.



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Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What are you interested in knowing more about?
- What else does that make you think of?
- Where do you think we can learn more about these things?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What was your hardest rule to follow today? Why was it hard?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw or showed today?

Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming independent readers need time to read alone and with others. Families should take time to talk about books, magazines and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

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SECOND GRADE

What to expect:

In second grade, children begin to ask bigger and deeper questions as their learning continues to grow. New and exciting learning experiences in the classroom take shape as they learn about citizenship, economics, geography and history by asking questions about the world around them. They are interested in how things work and do well with hands-on tasks. Second-graders also enjoy learning through games. Their listening skills are growing, which increases their ability to participate in class discussions.

This information is a snapshot of learning in second-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Summarize the five key individual rights and liberties protected by the First Amendment.
- Identify the roles of national leaders including the President of the United States and members of Congress.
- Describe the relationship between taxes and community services.
- Research examples of honesty, courage, patriotism, self-sacrifice and other positive character traits in citizens and leaders from history (for example, Abigail Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Rosa Parks).
- Locate the state of Oklahoma, its major cities and the states bordering it on a map.
- Identify landforms and bodies of water in the community and on a map.

What to do at home:

- Discuss community services like fire stations and schools that are paid by taxes.
- Find examples of First Amendment rights in current events.
- Read short biographies with your child.
- Visit bodies of water and landforms like plateaus, valleys and hills.
- Discuss ways people pay for goods and services: cash, credit or trade.
- Locate Oklahoma and bordering states on a map.



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Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- What new words or new things have you discovered?
- How can you solve the problems you see?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
- What was the best thing that happened today? What was the worst?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today or was there something you didn't understand?

Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Exposing children to a variety of print materials such as books, magazines, etc., allows them to explore new words and ideas. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- What kind of book is this?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

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THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age will be growing in independence and expanding their view of the world. Third-graders are beginning to apply basic skills learned in prior grades to content about their state. Their social studies focus will be on Oklahoma's natural resources, local and state governments, important economic activities and the cultures that have settled in our state.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify representative leaders of the state of Oklahoma.
- Describe the historical significance of Oklahoma's state seal and flag.
- Examine how the development of Oklahoma's major economic activities (including oil and gas, agriculture and livestock, aviation, tourism, tribal enterprises and the military) have contributed to the growth of the state.
- Identify and locate Oklahoma's major landforms, bodies of water and cities.
- Describe how pioneers and present-day Oklahomans adapt and modify their environment.
- Describe the many American Indian cultures that have inhabited present-day Oklahoma.
- Summarize how the weather and environment have impacted the economy of Oklahoma.
- Identify state and local landmarks and contributions of notable Oklahomans.

What to do at home:

- Identify your mayor, local state representative, state senator and city officials.
- Visit the State Capitol or local government offices.
- Visit local businesses important to your community.
- Visit local landforms and bodies of water.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other local celebrations.
- Read books about Oklahoma or biographies about famous Oklahomans.
- Celebrate Oklahoma's birthday on November 16.
- Go on virtual field trips around the state.



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Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- If you could grow up to be famous, what would you want to be famous for and why?
- If you could give \$100 to a charity, which one would you choose and why?
- If you could make a photo book of Oklahoma, what pictures would you include and why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What food would be served at your favorite meal?
- How did you show kindness to someone today?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do with family or friends?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help third-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What made you pick this book?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What pictures do you see in your mind as you read?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- What was the most important event in the story? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author might want the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you could give this book a different title, what would it be? Why?

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FOURTH GRADE

What to expect:

At this age, children are widening their view of the world, taking on more responsibility for organizing their work and creating questions to guide their own learning. In fourth grade, students will examine the physical, cultural, political, economic and historic development of the United States, including early European contact with American Indians.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify and locate U.S. landforms, bodies of water and unique natural features.
- Identify and locate states and major cities.
- Describe natural resources in the United States and how they impact the economy of each region in industries like fishing, farming, ranching, mining, manufacturing, tourism, wind, and oil and gas.
- Summarize Americans interact with their environment in terms of housing, industry, transportation, bridges, dams, tunnels, canals, etc.
- Describe the various races and ethnicities of the people of the United States.
- Summarize the reasons for key European expeditions and their impact on the development and culture of each region.
- Identify major American Indian groups and their ways of life.
- Identify and evaluate instances of cooperation and conflict between American Indian groups and European settlers.

What to do at home:

- Explore natural resources in your neighborhood and community, and notice cultural influences on street signs.
- Play games or put together puzzles that identify states, major cities and transportation routes
- Give your child the opportunity to experience conflict and cooperation.
- Locate professional sports teams of interest to your child on a map.
- Create a map of your house, school or community.
- Read books about places, resources, monuments and landmarks in the United States.
- Compare your community to others in the United States.
- Describe how people in your community interact with the environment.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other community celebrations.



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Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What natural resources are present in your community? How do they affect your area?
- If you opened a store, what would you sell and why?
- If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is the most exciting adventure you could take?
- Who would you take with you on the adventure?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fourth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Skim through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?



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FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are becoming more independent learners. They are able to come up with questions to guide their learning and can understand different perspectives and how issues are connected. Fifth-graders will study the history of the United States, beginning with the settlement of Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 and concluding with the ratification of the Constitution of the United States.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Examine the reasons and motivations for English exploration and settlement in Jamestown, Va., and Plymouth, Mass., and later in other colonies.
- Compare the three colonial regions and how members of different social classes experienced daily life.
- Examine the cause and effect of significant events leading to armed conflict between the colonies and Great Britain.
- Explain why the ideals of equality, inalienable rights and consent of the governed were established in the Declaration of Independence.
- Analyze the significant military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War and the contributions of key individuals and groups.
- Examine the issues and events the young nation encountered that led to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.
- Determine the main purposes of the U.S. government in the Preamble and the Constitution of the United States and summarize the liberties protected in the Bill of Rights.

What to do at home:

- Compare exploration in the past with exploration today. What and where do we explore today?
- Describe the concept of revolution. What revolutionized communication, transportation, industry, etc.?
- Ask your child to write a personal declaration of independence from something relevant in real life using Thomas Jefferson's format.
- Listen to and watch songs and videos that help explain our system of government.
- Read the Bill of Rights and look for these liberties in current events.



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Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- If you could change one rule or law, what would you change and why?
- If you could go back in time and interview someone, who would it be and what would you ask?
- What makes you feel brave?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week and why?
- How did you help someone in need today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fifth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Is this the type of book you usually choose? Why or why not?
- By looking at the cover, what do you think the author's reason for writing the book might be?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Will you read a short section to me with feeling in your voice?
- What do you do when you don't understand what you just read?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

- Give a summary of the book in 10 words.
- What problem did the main character face? What was the solution to that problem?
- What message is the author sending to the reader? Why do you think that?

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SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are able to see the world from different perspectives and are interested in new tasks. In sixth-grade social studies, they will explore how spatial patterns (organization and placement of people and objects) form, change over time and relate to one another in the Western Hemisphere (North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean).

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify, locate and describe major landforms and bodies of water in the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyze the impact of natural disasters on human populations.
- Describe major political and economic systems of the Western Hemisphere.
- Identify countries, major urban centers and regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, countries and regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Describe the characteristics and relative location of major cultural regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Explain patterns of global economic interdependence and world trade.
- Analyze the impact of geography on population location, growth and change.
- Describe common characteristics of developed and developing countries.
- Summarize the impact of the distribution of major renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Evaluate the effects of human modification of and adaptation to the natural environment.

What to do at home:

- Plan a trip using a paper map, not GPS.
- Go on virtual field trips to explore places in the Western Hemisphere.
- Discuss a family plan to recycle and conserve energy and water.
- Identify examples of cooperation in your community.
- Develop a family plan to follow in the event of a natural disaster.
- Learn where the goods in your house were made.
- Create a map of the Western Hemisphere.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Provide opportunities for your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- Where would you like to travel? How would you get there?
- What makes a good leader?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you create that would make the biggest difference in the world?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What goals can you set to help you become a better person?
- What is your favorite part of the year and why?
- How can you make a positive difference for someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help sixth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Are you keeping a list of books you have already read? Why would it be good to keep a list like that?
- How is this book like another book you have read or a movie you have seen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- As you are reading, what questions do you have for the author?
- How does this book remind you of a book you have already read or something you already know?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme of the book? Was lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?

Join the conversation!

#oklaed